

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 14th SEPTEMBER, 2016** at **7.15 p.m.**

PRESENT **Councillor J.P. Hillary (Chairman)** and
Councillors E. Adam, M. Ashcroft, J. Atkinson, W.M. Blenkinsopp,
A.M. Chandran, J.D. Clare, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J. Clark, N.
Collinson, M.A. Dalton, Mrs M. Dalton, P.L. Davies, R.S. Fleming,
G.C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, Mrs I.
Hewitson, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, W. Iveson, P. Kjenstad, Mrs V. Raw
and K. Robson.

OFFICERS Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

50. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

51. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors D.G. Atkinson, P.J. Bergg, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and C. Wheeler.

52. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATION**

No dispensation requests had been received.

53. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors E. Adam, J.D. Clare and J. Hillary re-affirmed a declared intered on Item No. 15 (Land Sale), however, they would be remaining in the meeting.

54. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

55. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 13th July 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

56. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had submitted a list of appointments he had attended for the period 12th July 2016 to 13th September 2016.

The diary had been extremely busy with attendances at Fun in the Park, a Bucket Collection in Tesco and his Charity Golf Day.

The Mayor thanked members who had supported him.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

57. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) **Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor I. Gray, seconded by Councillor R.S. Fleming and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 31st August 2016 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(b) **Recreation Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall, seconded by Councillor M. Ashcroft and

RESOLVED – as follows:

- (i) That the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 31st August 2016 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

(c) **Policy and Resources Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp and

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 7th September 2016 be received, and
- (ii) That the said minutes be approved and adopted.

58. **WITHDRAWAL FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS AND ENHANCING THE COUNCIL'S LEGAL PROTECTION INSURANCE**

The Finance Manager had submitted a report requesting members to consider withdrawing the Council's membership of the National Association of Councillors and using the saving in subscription fees to fund an increase in the Council's legal protection insurance cover.

RESOLVED - as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Council's membership to the National Association of Councillor be not renewed.
- (iii) That the Council's legal protection insurance cover be increased to £500,000 with the additional insurance premium being paid from the saving made from the NAC membership cancellation.

59. **HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

Information had been circulated in respect of the development of up to 450 dwellings on land adjoining Woodham Bridge, Newton Aycliffe.

In view of the large number of proposed dwellings and the access which would be needed onto the A167 members raised a number of concerns.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That an Officer from Durham County Council Planning Department be asked to attend a meeting in order that members could seek replies to their concerns subject to the consultation expiry date.
- (ii) That concerns were made as to the access and egress to the site which is consisting of up to 450 dwellings and will be the only access to the development.
- (iii) It was noted that the site does not form part of the Durham County proposed local plan and therefore the site designation remains as indicated in the saved Sedgefield Borough Plan as land identified for recreation purposes.

60. **ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES**

Information had been circulated seeking the authorisation of attendance at Conferences organised by the National Association of Local Councils:-

- (a) Wednesday, 19th/20th October 2016 – NALC Annual Conference to be held in Birmingham.
- (b) Wednesday, 30th November 2016 – Larger Local Councils' Conference and Exhibition – 'Changing Places' – to be held in London.

RESOLVED – that the Council is not represented at the two Conferences on this occasion.

61. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

Verbal reports were given by representatives on the undermentioned Outside Bodies:-

- (a) Youth Council
There had been no meetings.
- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils
Annual General Meeting would be held shortly.
- (c) Aycliffe Village Community Association
No report.
- (d) Woodham Village Community Association
Councillor K Henderson reported that the Centre running smoothly.
- (e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Council's Committee
No meeting.

- (f) Larger Local Councils' Forum
The Town Clerk had attended the last meeting when members from the Larger Local Councils' Forum had agreed to visit Newton Aycliffe / Shildon to view our facilities.
Members agreed that lunch be provided for the representatives and that they be given a tour of our Council facilities.
- (g) Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre
Councillor J. Clare gave information on the new Youth Policy for County Durham which had been accepted.
- (h) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society
Councillor I. Gray gave an update on the success and popularity of the bookings of the buses.
- (i) Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve
Councillor I. Gray gave an update from the Group.
- (j) Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway
Councillor D. Atkinson gave a report from the A.G.M. held on the 8th September.
- (k) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Councillor B. Hall gave members information from the end of the 6 weeks consultation period.
- (l) Crime and Community Safety Task Group
Meeting had been the 14th September and Councillor Ashcroft had been unable to attend.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the information given from the Representatives serving on the Outside Bodies be received.
- (ii) That Officers be tasked to provide lunch and a tour of Council facilities for the visitors from the Larger Local Councils' Forum.

62. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor M. Ashcroft and

RESOLVED – in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it was, in the opinion of the Council, advisable that the public and press be excluded from the meeting.

63. **HCA – LAND TRANSFER PROPOSALS – VARIOUS LOCATIONS**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report advising members of a proposal from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to seek to transfer parcels of land, currently designated as Newt Ponds together with a number of sub-soil parcels to this Authority.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the Town Clerk be authorised to investigate the matter further and produce a report back to committee for consideration.

64. **LAND SALE – AGNEW 5**

Councillors J.D. Clare, J.P. Hillary and E.M. Adam re-affirmed their declared interest as members of Durham County Council on this item, however, they would remain in the meeting.

The Town Clerk had submitted a report providing details of a potential offer to purchase the Town Council's 1.78 acres (.78 hectares) of land adjacent to the new development by Chapter Homes.

An evaluation of the site had taken place with a potential conditional offer possibly being made subject to Board approval.

RESOLVED – as follows:-

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That Officers continue with negotiations prior to a further report being brought back for consideration.

65. **RE-ADMISSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – that the Press and Public be readmitted to the meeting.

CHAIRMAN.